

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device comprising an adapter block for seating on a laboratory magnetic stirrer and having a recess in ~~[[the]]~~a base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer, the adapter block containing fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels, wherein when the adapter block is co-operatively positioned on a magnetic stirrer within a magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer, each and every position for holding a reaction vessel is effectively located for stirring with respect to the magnetic field, with the center of each vessel distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess, ~~and wherein the adapter block is structurally removable from the laboratory magnetic stirrer without removing a fastener.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the adapter block incorporates guide means to ensure that each and every position for holding a reaction vessel is effectively located for equivalent stirring.
4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the fixing means comprise a plurality of sockets each designed to securely accommodate a reaction vessel.
5. (Original) A device according to claim 4 wherein the sockets are arranged about the perimeter of the adapter block.
6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 further comprising a condenser unit operatively connected to the adapter block.
7. (Original) A device according to claim 6 wherein the adapter block is made of heat conducting material.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the adapter block is circular in shape.
9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the adapter block is made of chemically resistant material.
10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 further comprising a gas manifold operatively connected to the adapter block.
11. (Currently Amended) A magnetic stirrer fitted with an adapter block wherein the adapter block includes a recess in ~~[[the]]~~a base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer in which a magnetic field is generated, and includes fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels with their centers distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess, and wherein the adapter block is positioned within the magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer such that each and every of an at least one socket is effectively positioned for stirring with respect to the magnetic field.
12. (Previously Presented) A magnetic stirrer according to claim 11 further comprising a hotplate operatively connected to the magnetic stirrer and a condenser unit operatively connected to the adapter block.
13. (Currently Amended) A magnetic stirrer fitted with an adapter block wherein the adapter block contains fixing means for holding a plurality of reaction vessels, the adapter block positioned within the magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer such that each and every of an at least one socket of the fixing means is effectively positioned for stirring with respect to a magnetic field generated by the magnetic stirrer, and further comprising a condenser unit operatively connected to the adapter block.
14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 13, wherein the adapter block includes a recess in ~~[[the]]~~a base thereof for receiving an upper portion of the stirrer.

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 14, wherein the centers of the reaction vessels are distributed around the recess outside the periphery of the recess.
16. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein a base portion of each vessel may be held substantially at the level of the recess.
17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the fixing means comprises a plurality of holders.
18. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein a base portion of each vessel may be held substantially at the level of the recess.
19. (Previously Presented) A magnetic stirrer according to claim 11, wherein the fixing means comprises a plurality of holders.
20. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein a base portion of each vessel may be held substantially at the level of the recess.